



Embassy of the  
United States  
ANTANANARIVO

## **SUMMER/FALL 2021 STUDY OF THE UNITED STATES INSTITUTES FOR SCHOLARS**

The U.S. Embassy in Madagascar and Comoros solicits applications for the summer/fall 2021 Study of the U.S. Institutes for Scholars.

**Deadline for email submission to [raharijaf@state.gov](mailto:raharijaf@state.gov) or [lalaharivonymi@state.gov](mailto:lalaharivonymi@state.gov) NO LATER THAN Thursday, March 11, 2021**

### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW:**

The Study of the U.S. Institutes for Scholars (SUSIs) are intensive university-level programs with integrated study tours whose purpose is to provide foreign university faculty and other scholars the opportunity to deepen their understanding of U.S. society, culture, values, and institutions. The ultimate goal of these Institutes is to strengthen curricula and to enhance the quality of teaching about the United States in academic institutions abroad. This is a fully funded program.

The Study of the U.S. Institutes for Scholars will take place at various universities and academic institutions throughout the United States beginning in or after June 2021. Each Institute will include a virtual academic residency and an integrated in-person experience approximately two weeks in length at a U.S. host institution. During the virtual academic residency, participants will engage remotely from their home countries in Institute activities. If conditions allow, participants will travel to the United States in fall 2021 or winter 2022 to participate in educational and cultural activities inside and outside of the classroom, lectures, and site visits to local communities. The in-person component in the United States will be organized taking into consideration all necessary safety guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state, local, and campus authorities.

The Study of the U.S. Institutes for Scholars will be held on the following themes in U.S. Studies: American Culture and Values; Journalism and Media; Religious Pluralism in the United States; U.S. Economics and Business; U.S. Foreign Policy; and Workforce Development.

### **INSTITUTE THEMES:**

1. The Institute on **American Culture and Values** will provide a multinational group of 18 experienced and highly motivated foreign university faculty and other specialists with a deeper understanding of U.S. society, culture, values, and institutions. The Institute should examine the ethnic, racial, social, economic, political, and religious contexts in which various cultures have manifested in U.S. society while focusing on the ways in which these cultures have influenced social movements and American identity throughout U.S. history. The program should draw from a diverse disciplinary base and should itself provide a model of how a foreign university might approach the study of American culture and society.
2. The Institute on **Journalism and Media** will provide a multinational group of 18 experienced and highly motivated foreign journalism instructors and other related specialists with a deeper understanding of the roles that journalism and the media play in U.S. society. The Institute will examine the role of journalists in recognizing and preventing disinformation and will explore strategies for media and information literacy to counter disinformation. Additionally, the Institute will examine best practices in journalism by discussing the rights and responsibilities of the media in a democratic society, including editorial independence, journalistic ethics, legal constraints, and international journalism. In addition, the Institute will examine pedagogical strategies for teaching students of journalism the basics of the tradecraft: researching, critical thinking, reporting, interviewing, writing, and editing. The program will also highlight the impact of technology in journalism, including the influence of the Internet, globalization of the news media, and other changes that are transforming the profession.
3. The Institute on **Religious Pluralism in the United States** will provide a multinational group of up to 18 experienced foreign university faculty, scholars, researchers, and religious leaders with a deeper understanding of U.S. society and culture, past and present, through an examination of religious pluralism in the United States and its intersection with American democracy. The program will include a survey of the religious landscape of the United States, including religious groups; an exploration of the historical and contemporary relationship between church and state in the United States; an examination of the ways in which religious thought and practice have modified and have been influenced by, the development of American-style democracy; and discussions on the intersections of religion and politics in the United States in such areas as elections, public policy, and foreign policy. Participants will have opportunities to meet U.S. community leaders of different faiths who advocate for collaboration and tolerance among religious groups.

4. The Institute on **U.S. Economics and Business** will provide a multinational group of 18 experienced foreign university faculty, researchers, experts, and policymakers with a deeper understanding of key components and structures of the U.S. economy. Using a multidisciplinary approach, the program will explore various topics of socioeconomics; how financial institutions, investors, and businesses interact to support sustainable economic development and growth; and increasing diverse and equitable employment through institutional regulation, social inclusion strategies, and private and public policies. Throughout the Institute, scholars will engage in a case study involving the fishing industry, which will examine the interplay of climate change, U.S. business innovation, corporate regulation, entrepreneurship, and economic theory. Participants will have opportunities to learn about key institutions and stakeholders in the U.S. economy and meet with a diverse range of business leaders and small business owners, among others. A symposium where scholars will present their own research and scholarly practices will allow for robust discussion and an exchange of diverse perspectives.
5. The Institute on **U.S. Foreign Policy** will provide a multinational group of 18 experienced foreign university faculty and practitioners with a deeper understanding of new approaches to U.S. foreign policy and how U.S. foreign policy is formulated and implemented. The Institute will include a historical review of significant events, individuals, and philosophies that have shaped U.S. foreign policy. The Institute will explain the role of key influences on U.S. foreign policy including the executive and legislative branches of government, the media, the U.S. public, think tanks, non-governmental organizations, and multilateral institutions. The program will also examine the current U.S. foreign policymaking landscape and recent trends that are shaping policy.
6. The Institute on **Workforce Development** will provide a multinational group of 18 experienced foreign faculty and practitioners with a deeper understanding of how recent socioeconomic trends have changed the concept of work, workforce development, and career paths in the United States. The academic program will include a thorough discussion of the role of U.S. educational institutions, particularly community colleges, in preparing Americans with the skills needed to succeed in multiple industries including business, technology, science, the creative arts, and emerging fields. The Institute will offer opportunities for participants to research new ideas, in conjunction with American peers, to better understand the evolution of work, the changing demand for skills, and the advancements in workforce development through retraining and reskilling.

**PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS:**

Participants must complete the entire virtual program in order to participate in the in-person program component in the United States. Candidates should be aware that they are applying for an intensive, rigorous, academic program and are expected to fully participate in all aspects of the program. The Institute is not a research program. Participants must attend all lectures and organized activities and complete assigned readings. During the U.S. component of the Institute, family members and/or friends may not accompany participants on any part of the program. Candidates should be aware that this is an intensive Institute and there will be little time for personal pursuits unrelated to the program. Please note that Institute curriculum will not formally address teaching methodology and pedagogical methods.

**CANDIDATE DESCRIPTION AND QUALIFICATIONS:**

Priority will be given to candidates who have firm plans to enhance, update, or develop courses and/or educational materials with a U.S. studies focus or component; who have no prior or limited experience in the United States; and who have special interest in the program subject areas as demonstrated through past scholarship, accomplishments, and professional duties.

Candidates should be mid-career, typically between the ages of 30-50, highly motivated, experienced scholars and professionals generally from institutions of higher education or research-focused organizations (not-for-profits, think tanks, etc.). While the educational level of participants will likely vary, most should have graduate degrees and have substantial knowledge of the thematic area of the Institute or a related field.

Ideal candidates are individuals whose home institution is seeking to introduce aspects of U.S. studies into its curricula, to develop new courses in the subject of the Institute, to enhance and update existing courses on the United States, or to offer specialized seminars/workshops for professionals in U.S. studies areas related to the program theme. While the nominee's scholarly and professional credentials are an important consideration, the potential impact and multiplier effect from their participation in the Institute is equally important. Ideal candidates will have little or no prior experience in the United States.

Candidates must demonstrate English language fluency. Institutes are rigorous and demanding academic programs conducted entirely in English. Participants will be expected to read and comprehend substantial written materials and assignments in English and to fully and actively participate in all seminar and panel discussions. English fluency is vital to a successful experience in the Institute, for participants as individuals and to foster a cohesive and interactive group.

U.S. citizens and permanent residents (green card holders) are not eligible for these programs.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to visit SUSI's website page to obtain general information about the Institutes. The address is: <http://exchanges.state.gov/susi>.